

CATHERINE P. BLAINE HOME

MRS. E. F. TAYLOR

WE are so young and new that it seems as if there was not much to say about us. Yet another great work has been opened by the Woman's Home Missionary Society, and this time it is to help broaden and make better the Japanese girls and women of the great Northwest. June 1, 1911, the property located at 318 Eleventh Avenue, Seattle, was purchased. Through the generosity of auxiliaries in the Puget Sound Conference, gifts from individuals and donations from many other sources, enough furniture and furnishings were given to open the Home in a very small way.

A few weeks later, Yei, a bright little girl of eleven years, came to us; her mother was not living, and her father was too poor to care for her. Not a word of English could she speak, but before long she entered the public school. She proved unusually bright

and quick to learn, picking up crocheting and the simple stitches in embroidery almost at once. She could sew very well at the end of her first year in the Home, and had started to cut and sew the pieces for a bedquilt.

During the first year we had in the Home over thirty girls and women. At one time there were three girls working in a glove factory during the day, but boarding and rooming at the Home. Others, being employed as housemaids, make the Home their home when out of work. While here each helps with the housework and cooking.

During the winter months classes in domestic science are carried on very successfully. Twice a week, for the benefit of the girls employed through the day, classes in sewing and millinery are held, and are unusually well attended. These classes are conducted by the wife of a wealthy and prominent Japanese merchant. From twelve to twenty mothers, with their young children and babes, come every week to secure more practical knowledge of sewing.

Another very important line of work is the Kindergarten, opened in September,

1911. The class soon grew to such numbers that the size of the room forbade any more entering. Classes in religious training have been started, including one held on Sabbath afternoon, where the girls gather for prayer and instruction, and where a true Japanese lunch is afterward served. Daily visits are made on the non-Christian Japanese women; at first they were cold and apparently did not wish to hear about our Saviour, but after a few months of persistent calling and repeated invitations to come to the Home, many have availed themselves of the opportunity, and we hope the good seed sown will soon develop.

One great evil with which we contend is the picture-bride marriages; our Japanese worker meets all the Japanese ships and looks after the young brides, married by proxy in Japan.

Seattle has in its midst a Buddhist temple, to which many of the Japanese children from Christian and non-Christian homes have been accustomed to go to learn the Japanese language, the parents paying for the instruction received. The Christian Japanese have re-

cently withdrawn, and an effort is being made to open a school presided over by a Christian, in which their native language may be taught.

The one great drawback in carrying on the work of the Home is lack of funds. Methodist money on the Coast is so employed in building homes and business and churches that we have to look for our largest help elsewhere. May we not ask from every auxiliary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society a pledge or a contribution, so that our work may go on?



WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

50 or less, 6c; 50 to 100, 10c